STOURPORT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1913.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my 21st Annual Report.

A. Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

1. Physical features and general condition of the district. These were discussed in the report for 1901.

2.—Population. Census, 1911	...	...		4432
Estimated, 1913	...	...	...	4412

The average wage is high, and there is little—if any—real poverty in the district. Employment throughout the year has been good. The chief occupations of the inhabitants were dealt with in the Report for 1901.

B. Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water Supply. During the year the supply hitherto obtained from the Kidderminster Corporation has been discontinued, and another supply obtained from the Bewdley Corporation. For all practical purposes the quality of each supply is identical, the change being made for motives of economy.

Rivers and Streams. No serious pollution of the rivers takes place in the district.

Drainage and Sewerage. The Bridge Street area and a portion of the Mill Road still use the old sewers: the sewage from the rest of the district is dealt with at the Titton Sands Sewage Farm. 127 house drains have been laid or re-laid, 16 additional W.C's provided, and 116 privies converted into W.C's. About 100 privies will probably remain permanent because of their distance from the sewers and about another 100 await conversion.

Scavenging. This is regularly and systematically carried out. Ash-bins in the town are emptied weekly, those in the outlying parts of the district fortnightly, and the ash-pits as required. During the year ash-bins have replaced ashpits in 78 instances.

Sanitary Inspections of the District. The number of premises visited was 169: in the majority of instances the sanitary defects discovered were not serious and nearly all have been remedied or are about to be remedied. Further details are given in the report of the Sanitary Inspector which is appended.

Schools. The Boys' Schools, the Girls' Schools, and St. John's Schools have been connected with the present system of sewerage, but the Infant Schools in Tan Lane ought to have the privy middens converted into W.C's as soon as possible. Expenses in connection with the Schools have been very heavy within the past few years on account of alterations demanded by the Board of Education, and funds are very low. I have every reason to believe the necessity for conversion of privy middens into W.C's is realised by the Managers, and will be undertaken before long.

Food.

(a). **Milk Supply.** Most of the milk used in the district is imported. There are 9 cowsheds which are inspected bi-annually. There are 3 registered dairies and 16 purveyors of milk. Neither cows or milk are examined for tuberculosis but one cow being ill was certified as suffering from tuberculosis and destroyed. A more frequent inspection of cows and cowsheds is desirable but impracticable so long as the duties of the Sanitary Inspector are so manifold.

(b). **Other Foods.** No regular inspection can be undertaken for the reason mentioned above. The bakehouses are inspected and are generally fairly clean. The slaughter-houses have also been visited and found satisfactory: they are frequently visited at times of slaughtering and no diseased meat has been noticed. There is no regular inspection of meat.

Housing. The number of houses inspected under and for the purpose of Section 17 of the Act of 1909 is 69, 1 was represented as unfit for human habitation, a closing order was made and became operative. I have nothing to add to my remarks on this subject in my last Annual Report.

C. Sanitary Administration in the District.

1. **Staff.**—This consists of Medical Officer, the Sanitary Inspector—who is also District Surveyor, Water Inspector, Canal Boats Inspector and Workshops' Inspector—and nine men. The multifarious duties of the Sanitary Inspector are performed as well as is possible in the circumstances, but it would be impossible for any man to perform them as thoroughly as is desirable.

2. **Hospital Accommodation.**—Arrangements are still in force for dealing with cases of Scarlatina and Smallpox at the Kidderminster Isolation Hospital.

3. **Adoptive Acts.**—As in 1912.

4. Chemical and Bacteriological Work is undertaken by the County Council.

D. Prevalence and Control over Acute Infectious Diseases.

Notifications. Scarlatina, 11; Diphtheria, 7; Erysipelas, 1; Enteric F., 1.

Scarlatina. Though 11 cases were notified only 8 households were attacked, 2 cases occurring in one house and 3 in another. In each house 2 cases were notified at the same time and in only one instance would removal to hospital have—possibly—prevented a secondary case. The cases attended all four schools and not one could be be traced to school infection with any degree of certainty. In all the houses except one there were other children, and in no instance was the disease transmitted to them. My experience of the past ten years confirms an opinion formed long before that Scarlatina may be safely isolated at home without trained nursing if the person in charge is capable and conscientious.

Diphtheria. Of the 7 cases notified 3 were in one house. One was a domestic servant who returned home ill. There was no obvious source of infection in any case except—possibly—the one child in the house where 3 were ill may have infected the others. The infected premises were not near to each other and had no communication, and only in one case was school infection at all likely. Swabs are taken from most cases and forwarded to the County Laboratory for examination: a succession of two negative swabs at intervals of at least 10 days are required before the patient is considered free from infection and allowed to return to school. Antitoxin is provided by the Council free of charge for those who are unable to pay for it.

Enteric Fever. It was impossible to trace the origin of this illness unless it was caused by watercress. The watercress was carefully traced to its source and the Medical Officer of Health of the district where the bed was, communicated with. Though a good deal of the cress was sold in the district only this one case occurred.

Non-notifiable Acute Infectious Disease. The district was particularly free from non-notifiable infectious disease. Mild epidemics of influenza were prevalent in the earlier and latter months of the year, but there was no fatal case. Measles was introduced into St. John's School by a child from an adjoining district, in April, and the school was closed for a week by the County Medical Officer; by this time 75 per cent. of the children were attacked and the closure was extended till after the Whitsuntide holidays, which were almost due; by that time the disease had disappeared without spreading to the other schools. The type of the disease was comparatively mild and only one child died.

The School Teachers are notified at once of all cases of infectious disease notified to the M.O.H., who also informs them of the outbreak of non-notifiable infectious disease as soon as it comes to his knowledge.

E. Prevalence of and Control over Tuberculosis.

13 cases of Tuberculosis—9 pulmonary—were notified—see Table II.

In my last Annual Report I wrote "It is practically impossible for a Medical Officer of Health in general practice to visit and keep under his supervision the patients of other Medical men in the district," also "the necessary inquisitorial duties should be undertaken by the County Tuberculosis Officer or his assistant in conjunction with the Medical man in attendance."

I am thankful to say that the County Assistant Tuberculosis Officers are being appointed Assistant Medical Officers of Health—without salary from the districts—so that they may be able to undertake the duties hitherto devolving on the Medical Officer of Health with regard to Tuberculosis patients. But the Medical Officer of Health will still continue to deal with the house where the patient lives and its surroundings.

F. Means for Preventing Mortality in Childbirth and in Infancy.

The administration of the Midwives Act is undertaken by the County Council and also that of the Notification of Births Act, 1907.

Vital Statistics of the District. Tables 1 to 4.

The estimated population of the district is 4412.

Births. 94 Births, 41 males, 53 females, were registered.

Birth rate, 21·3.

Deaths. 50 deaths were registered in the district, 25 males, 25 females, 3 of these were of persons belonging to other districts, 2 males, and 1 female. 9 deaths of residents occurred outside the district, 4 males, 5 females.

The nett Death rate is 12 6.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. S. ROBINSON.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT

of the Sanitary Work completed in the year ending 31st Desember, 1913.

Infectious Disease.

No. of houses disinfected after notifiable disease	22
Lots of bedding, clothing, &c., disinfected or destroyed ...	—
Compensation paid for destruction	—
Cases of illegal exposure reported (P.H. Act 1875, Sec. 26)	—

Houses (Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909).

No. of houses erected	11
No. of houses inspected	69
No. represented as unfit for habitation	1
No. of Closing Orders made by the Local Authority ..	1
No. of Closing Orders that became operative	1
No. of defects remedied without Closing Orders	114
No. of defects remedied after Closing Orders	—
No. of Closing Orders determined	—
No. of houses demolished	—
No. of Orders to execute work under Section 15	—
No. of Orders to execute work under Section 15 complied with	—
No. of yards paved or repaved	—
No. of cases of overcrowding abated	—

Movable Dwellings, Caravans, &c.

No. observed	1
No. dealt with, as insanitary	1

House-drains.

No. laid or relaid	127
No. trapped, ventilated and repaired	127
No of obstructed drains dealt with	12
No. of house-drains tested	127
No. of insanitary lavatories, sinks and urinals rectified ...	50
No. of urinals on licensed premises inspected	—
No. of dumb-wells rectified	—

Water Closets.

No. of additional W.C's provided	16
No. repaired, ventilated and supplied with water	—

Privies and Ashpits.

No. of additional privies and ashpits provided	—
No. of pail closets and privies converted to W.C's	116
No. converted to pail-closets	—
No. repaired	—

Scavenging.

No. of houses from which refuse was removed	1057
No. of privies and ashpits cleansed	1487
No. of portable receptacles cleansed	11140
No. of loads of ashes and excrement removed	1652

How often is house refuse removed? Part weekly, part fortnightly, part as required.

Smoke Nuisances.

No. under observation	—
No. abated	—

Offensive Trades (Sec. 112 P.H.A. 1875, Sec. 51 P.H.A.A.A. 1907).

No. under observation	—
No. improperly conducted	—
No. newly established, with consent of Council	—

Water Supply.

No. of wells sunk	—
No. of wells cleansed and repaired	—
No. of wells closed as polluted	2
No. of disused wells abolished	4
No. of houses supplied from waterworks during year ...	1004
No. of samples of water sent for analysis	2
No. of houses with contaminated or deficient water supplies dealt with	9
No. of houses erected or rebuilt, for which water certificates were given	—

Slaughter Houses.

No. registered	2
No. licensed	3
No. cleansed and repaired	5
At what intervals is each inspected ...	Quarterly and at intervals
Cases of slaughtering on unlicensed premises reported ...	—
Are Byelaws in force thoroughly carried out	Yes

Factories and Workshops.

No. under inspection	32
No. certified for limewashing by Inspector	—
No. of insanitary conditions dealt with as nuisances ...	4
No. employing "young persons," &c., reported to Medical Officer of H.	—
At what intervals is each inspected ...	January and July
No. of outworkers' premises inspected	1

Shop Hours Act.

No. of shops under supervision	N
No. of contraventions of Act dealt with	N

Purveyors of Milk.

No. of	16

Dairies.

No registered	3
No. of contraventions of Acts, Orders and Byelaws dealt with	1
At what intervals is each inspected ...	June and November
No. of infected milk supplies dealt with	—
Approximate No. of milking cows in district	30

Cowsheds.

No. Registered	5
No. of infected milk supplies reported	—
At what intervals is each inspected ...	June and November

Canal Boats.

No. of Boats on register	—
No. of boats registered during year	—
No. of certificates renewed	—
No. of boats inspected (for registration or otherwise) ...	93
No. of contraventions of Acts and Regulations dealt with ...	12

Lodging Houses.

No. on Register	N
No. regularly inspected	N
No. cleansed and repaired	N
At what intervals is each inspected	N

Food.

No. of seizures as unfit for consumption	N
Amount destroyed as unfit for consumption	N
Amount voluntarily surrendered as unfit for consumption ...	N

Food and Drugs' Act.

No. of samples taken for analysis	N
No. of samples certified genuine	N
No. of samples certified adulterated	N

Animals kept so as to be a Nuisance.

No. of cases of removal on notice	—

Accumulation of Offensive Refuse.

No. of removals	1

Legal Proceedings.

No. of convictions obtained with regard to insanitary conditions	2
No. of convictions obtained with regard to unsound food ...	2

Clerical Work.

No. of Preliminary notices served	193
No. of Statutory notices served	17
No. of Statutory notices complied with	13
No. of Statutory notices outstanding	4

With regard to the inspection of houses, 69 is given as the number inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Act, but to this should be added 169 houses inspected under the Public Health Acts. In connection with these, 82 Preliminary Notices were served, and the re-visits in connection with the re-inspection of premises, inspection of work in progress, and on completion, were 480.

Number of Official Letters written—250.

Table I.—Vital Statistics of whole Districts during 1913 and previous Years.

Year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births			Total deaths registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number	Nett				of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of age		At all ages	
			Number	Rate	Number	Rate			Number	Rate per 1000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	4462	81		18·4	42	9·5		8	8	98·1	50	11·3
1909	4452	90		20·3	44	9·9		10	6	66 6	54	12·2
1910	4442	97		21·9	38	8·4		6	7	72·1	44	9·9
1911	4432	104		23·4	47	10·5	1	17	13	125	63	14·1
1912	4422	84	85	19	55	12·4		8	10	119	63	14·2
1913	4412	94		21·3	50	11·3	3	9	9	95·7	56	12·6

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 1165. Total population at all ages, at Census of 1911, 4432. Number of inhabited houses, 1043. Average number of persons per house, 4.

Table II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1913.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases notified.					
	At all Ages	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65
Diphtheria	7	1	5	1		
Erysipelas	1	1				
Scarlet Fever	11	4	6		1	
Enteric Fever	1	1				
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	9		2	3	2	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	1	2	1		
Totals ...	33	8	15	5	3	2

Isolation Hospital:—Kidderminster (Scarlatina and Smallpox), Knightwick (Tuberculosis).

Table III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1913.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.								
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11
All Causes { Certified ... / Uncertified ...	56	9	1	1	6	4	5	10	20
Measles	1				1				
Phthisis	2						1	1	
Tuberculosis Meningitis	4	1	1		2				
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	2	1				1			
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	5						1	1	3
Organic Heart Disease	4							2	2
Bronchitis	4								4
Pneumonia	5	1		1			1		2
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	3	3							
Cirrhosis of Liver	1								1
Alcoholism	1							1	
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	3							1	2
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth	1	1							
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...	2				1		1		
Other Defined Diseases	14	2			1	3	1	4	3
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...	4				1				3
Totals ...	56	9	1	1	6	4	5	10	20

Table IV.

Infant Mortality during the Year 1913.

Causes of Death.		1-2 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total und'r 1mth	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total und'r 1 yr.
All causes	Certified	2	1	3	3	1	1	1	9
	Uncertified								
Tuberculosis Meningitis							1		1
Other Tuberculosis Diseases						1			1
Pneumonia								1	1
Enteritis					3				3
Premature Birth			1	1					1
Other Causes		2		2					2
Totals		2	1	3	3	1	1	1	9

Nett Births in the year—Legitimate 90, Illegitimate 4.

„ Deaths „ „ Infants 8 „ Infants 1.

1st April, 1914.

Printed by Order of the Council,

A. D. CAPEL LOFT,

Clerk to the Council.

Printed by W. CANE, High Street, Stourport.